

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-14 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02
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/090 W

-----170957Z 110610 /15

P 170830Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6226
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1542

CAPETOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: WORK BOYCOTT LARGELY INEFFECTIVE

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1522
JOHANNESBURG 1539

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE JUNE 17 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE CITIZEN PRESENTS A FAIRLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE JUNE 16 WORK BOYCOTT WHICH CORRESPONDS CLOSELY WITH THE CONSULATE'S IMPRESSIONS.
2. BEGIN QUOTE: SOWETO'S STAY-AT-HOME STRIKE WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD EFFECTIVE YESTERDAY.
3. BUT THE FACT THAT MANY WORKERS CAME TO WORK LATE AND LEFT EARLY DISRUPTED BUSINESS. AND THE ABSENCE OF BOTH BLACK AND WHITE SHOPPERS IN THE CENTRE CITY LEFT SHOP ASSISTANCE IDLE FOR MOST OF THE DAY.

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4. BOTH THE RAILWAYS AND PUTCO REPORT THAT THE PEAK TRAVEL PERIOD WAS LATER THAN USUAL. DURING THE EARLY HOURS THERE WAS ONLY ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF NORMAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC BY RAIL WHILE BUSES CARRIED ONLY 30 PERCENT OF NORMAL PAYLOADS.
5. COMMERCE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN HARDEST HIT. MR. MARIUS DE JAGER OF THE JOHANNESBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAYS SHOPS REPORTED

AN ATTENDANCE VARYING BETWEEN 30 AND 80 PERCENT OF WORKERS.

6. OTHER BUSINESSES, SUCH AS INSURANCE COMPANIES, REPORTED ONLY A 30 PERCENT ATTENDANCE.

7. MR. DE JAGER SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY PEOPLE FROM SOWETO TOOK PART IN ANY STRENGTH IN THE STAY-AT-HOME. AREAS SERVED BY ALEXANDRA AND TEMBISA REPORTED AN ATTENDANCE VARYING FROM 5 TO 100 PERCENT.

8. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JOHANNESBURG CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES SAID THE DAY STARTED WITH AN AVERAGE 40 PERCENT ATTENDANCE OF WORKERS BUT THIS INCREASED TO BETWEEN 75 AND 100 PERCENT AT DIFFERENT FACTORIES DURING THE DAY.

9. AN ORGANISER OF THE WHITE NATIONAL UNION OF DISTRIBUTIVE WORKERS, WHO MADE ROUTING ROUNDS OF SHOPS IN THE MIDDLE OF JOHANNESBURG YESTERDAY, REPORTED BUSINESS ALMOST AT A STANDSTILL. EN QUOTE.

10. COMMENT: EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT SUPPORT FOR THE WORK BOYCOTT ON JUNE 17 IS EVEN LESS THAN THE PREVIOUS DAY. KIRBY

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